THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The total Plan outlay for the Ministry of Small Scale Industries for the 10th Five-Year Plan period is Rs. 2200 crore. Plan outlays for the sector are not fixed on the basis of any percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

(b) The process for formulation of the 11th Five-Year Plan is yet to start.

(c) The issue of increased Plan allocation is taken up with the Planning Commission at the time of formulation of each Five-Year Plan as well as each Annual Plan.

Launching of ASTROSAT Project

3852. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved ASTROSAT Project last year;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of this project; and

(c) by when ASTROSAT is going to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main goal of ASTROSAT mission is to launch a space based multiwavelength astronomical observatory for studies in the frontier areas of high energy astronomy and astrophysics. The scientifc objectives include the following:

* Multiwavelength studies of galactic and extra galactic stellar objects by near simultaneous measurement of X-ray, ultraviolet and optical emissions from the sources.
* To study stellar phenomena using the observations covering the wavelength band in visible, ultraviolet, X-rays and gamma-rays regions.
* Detailed study of the spectra of neutron star and black hole binaries, AGNs (Active Galactic Nuclei), SNRs (Supernova Remnants) etc.
* High sensitivity timing observations of periodic and aperiodic variations.
* Detection and study of pulsars.

(c) Launch of ASTROSAT is planned during the middle of 2007.

Development of Weather Stations by ISRO

3853. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO has developed Weather Stations in collaboration with private entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, the details thereof with name of collaborator and terms of collaboration;

(c) whether the Weather Stations are functional;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) the level of accuracy of the data furnished by these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ISRO—Industry jointly developed Automatic Weather Station (AWS), is capable of collecting weather related data such as surface pressure, temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind speed etc., and transmitting them through data relay transponders of INSAT/KALPANA Satellites. This system is jointly developed by ISRO with the industrial partner M/s. Astra Microwave Products Limited (AMPL), Hyderabad. A productionisation agreement has been entered into with AMPL for the production and supply of AWS to be deployed in various parts of the country.

(c) and (d) The prototype of AWS has been successfully demonstrated and currently validation of the system is in progress jointly with the user community. The industry will commence regular supply in a phased manner from mid-2005.

(e) The level of accuracy of various meteorological parameters measured from the Automatic Weather Stations meets the user requirements.

Status of the manned mission to moon

3854. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have plans to send a manned mission to moon within a few years; and